

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A presensitized plate which comprises an aluminum support for a lithographic printing plate obtainable by performing a treatment with an aqueous solution containing one or more divalent or multivalent cations except alkaline earth metal at a concentration ranging from 0.0001 mol/L to less than 0.020 mol/L; and an image recording layer formed thereon containing an infrared absorbent.
2. (currently amended): ~~The support for a lithographic printing~~ presensitized plate according to claim 1, wherein the treatment of the aluminum support with the aqueous solution is performed on an aluminum plate which has been subjected to a graining treatment, an anodizing treatment and a hydrophilic treatment in this order.
3. (currently amended): A method of preparing a presensitized plate comprising an aluminum support for a lithographic printing plate and an image recording layer comprising the steps of:  
  
performing a treatment on an aluminum support with an aqueous solution containing one or more divalent or multivalent cations except alkaline earth metal at a concentration ranging from 0.0001 mol/L to less than 0.020 mol/L; and  
  
forming an image recording layer containing an infrared absorbent on the treated aluminum support.

4. (currently amended): The method of preparing a ~~support for a lithographic printing~~ presensitized plate according to claim 3, wherein the treatment with the aqueous solution is performed on an aluminum plate which has been subjected to a graining treatment, an anodizing treatment and a hydrophilic treatment in this order.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended): The presensitized plate according to claim-~~5~~ 1, wherein an intermediate layer containing a high-molecular compound having a constituent with an acid group and a constituent with onium group is formed between the support for a lithographic printing plate and the image recording layer.

10. (currently amended): The presensitized plate according to claim-~~6~~ 2, wherein an intermediate layer containing a high-molecular compound having a constituent with an acid group and a constituent with onium group is formed between the support for a lithographic printing plate and the image recording layer.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim-~~5~~ 1 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

14. (currently amended): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim ~~6~~ 2 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (original): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim 9 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

18. (original): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim 10 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 1 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

22. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 1 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

23. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 2 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

24. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 2 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

25. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 3 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

26. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 3 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

27. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 4 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in

the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

28. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 4 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

29. (new): The method of preparing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 13 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

30. (new): The method of preparing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 13 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.